MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes; I believe so.

Coir Industry.

321. ✱**MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI** (*Changanachery I*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Secretary of the Alleppey Chamber of Commerce has brought to the notice of the Government that the wilful mixing of sand and moisture with the coir yarn that is being done by some coir makers is becoming a serious menance to the coir industry;

(*b*) whether the Government have taken any steps to check the mal-practice; and

(*c*) what step, if any, they propose to take?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are informed that the practice has more or less stopped and that no action is necessary.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

MR. E. K. KUNJURAMAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether there was any new complaint?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No new complaint.

Patients treated in the Vaikam District Hospital.

322. ✱ **MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of patients treated in the Vaikam District Hospital during the years 1106, 1107, and 1108; and

(*b*) the number of female patients treated in the same Hospital in each of those years?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The required information is given below:—

Year.	Men.	Women	Children.	Total.	In-patients	Out-patients
1106	11,367	7,223	8,163	26,753	386	26,367
1107	9,933	6,342	7,638	23,913	353	23,560
1108	12,705	8,276	8,902	29,883	564	29,319

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR (*Vaikam*): With reference to answer to part (*b*), may I know whether it is not necessary to open a separate hospital for women?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government will consider that question when funds become available for the purpose.

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